

Existing law provides that, in addition to other duties, the Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections shall:

- (1) Establish programs of research, statistics, and planning, including studies of the efficacy and performance of the policies, plans, and procedures of the department, and studies of the treatment of offenders.
- (2) Make an annual report to the governor with respect to the work of the department, including but not limited to statistical and other data, accounts of research, the results of inspections of local detention and correctional facilities and data in such facilities, and any recommendations for legislation affecting the department.
- (3) Establish a diagnostic and treatment center, which may consist of one or more branches, to undertake medical, educational, psychiatric, and social studies of persons committed to facilities under the jurisdiction of the department and to provide for the training of psychiatrists, neurologists, special educators, psychologists, nurses, technicians, social workers, occupational therapists, physicians, and other professional trainees to serve the center.
- (4) Establish rules and regulations for the detection of controlled dangerous substances for inmates upon returning to the facility after an authorized absence.

New law retains these provisions of existing law and further requires the department to establish a comprehensive program of released offender transition services for offenders who are about to be, or have recently been, released from custody. The program established shall be designed to give efficient and effective aid to the offenders to make a successful transition from incarceration to free and law-abiding members of society and successfully complete probation or parole following their release. Requires the program to include the following:

- (1) Job information and placement services.
- (2) Referral to available government mental health and medical assistance agencies and programs.
- (3) Referral to available educational, vocational, job training, and counseling centers.
- (4) Such other services that the department recommends and deems consistent with these goals.

New law further provides that the program shall not be construed to apply to parish or local jails.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Adds R.S. 15:827(A)(5))